This course is an introduction to the language spoken and written in England from about 450 to 1200 CE: Old English. We will begin with pronunciation and end with short poems. This course combined with English 292/140B in the spring will fulfill the English Department language requirement for undergraduates. For graduate language credit, please see me about doing a brief reading exam. Because there is so much translation in this class, there is no term paper or final exam.

Course Reader:

Introduction to Old English, Peter S. Baker, 2nd or 3rd edition.
(Second edition is available in paper, third edition is available in paper or on-line at the University of Virginia: www.engl.virginia.edu/OE.) Please do the on-line exercises, Old English Aerobics.

Please read the assigned sections and do the relevant translations in advance of class. You will be called on everyday to translate orally. Many students find it useful to write out an interlinear translation by transcribing the Old English text, leaving at least two blank spaces above each line of text. The first line can be used for a preliminary gloss with grammatical notes and the second line for a more polished translation.

Grading:

Grades will be calculated as follows:

Two Midterms: 40%
Translation Project: 30%
Class Participation: 30%

Late work can only be accepted in the case of genuine and compelling emergencies beyond your control. Please let me know as soon as possible about such an emergency. See me if you need Disability Accommodations.

All work must be your own, particularly exams. I do not mind if you study and do homework together with another student, as along as you both contribute actively to the process.
Schedule of Classes:

Aug 24 Introduction
29 Chapter 1 and 2
31 Chapter 3, Basic Grammar

Sep 5 Labor Day (no class)
7 Chapter 4, Case
12 Chapter 5, Pronouns, Mini-Text A
14 Chapter 6, Nouns, Mini-Text B
19 Chapter 6
21 Chapter 7 Verbs, Mini-Text C
26 Chapter 7
28 Chapter 7 and Review

Oct 3 MidTerm Exam
5 Chapter 8 Adjectives, Mini-Text D
10 Instructor Holiday (no class)
12 Chapter 9 Numerals, Mini-Text E
17 Chapter 10, Adverbs, etc. Mini-Text F
19 Chapter 11, Concord, Mini-Text G
24 Chapter 12, Word-order, Mini-Text H
26 Chapter 13, Metre, Mini-Text I, Adam and Eve
31 Chapter 14, Poetic Style, Mini-Text J, Adam and Eve

Nov 2 Finish Adam and Eve. Review
7 Midterm Exam
9 Ohthere and Wulfstan
14 Ohthere and Wulfstan
16 The Story of Caedmon
21 The Story of Caedmon
23 Thanksgiving - (no class)
28 Battle of Maldon
30 Battle of Maldon

Dec 5 Battle of Maldon
7 Wanderer
12 Wanderer

Translation Project Due: In my office by Friday, December 16, by 1700 (5 pm)